

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 DPW-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 /055 W

----- 030995

R 250449Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2647

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION GENEVA

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CDR JCRC CP SAMAE SAN THAI

CONFIDENTIAL VIENTIANE 1341

D/PW FOR HENDERSON

GENEVA FOR SIEVERTS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CASC, LA

SUBJECT: DEAN/SHARMAN CASE

REF: STATE 040611 (NOTAL)

1. IN RETHINKING POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS ON DEAN/SHARMAN CASE,
WE BELIEVE THAT BEST MEANS OF GENERATING ADDITIONAL PRESSURE
HERE IN VIENTIANE WOULD BE TO GIVE WIDER DISTRIBUTION OF
DETAILED WRITTEN INFORMATION ON THE CASE AND LET INFO FILTER
OUT TO PRESS, RATHER THAN GOING DIRECTLY TO PRESS. IN DOING
SO, WE HAVE IN MIND THAT ASSOCIATED PRESS CORRESPONDENT IS
ABOUT TO DEPART LAOS, LEAVING "BUREAU" IN HANDS OF SEMI-
COMPETENT LOCAL FOR TIME BEING, AND THAT UPI STRINGER (WHO
IS ALSO XAT LAO EDITOR) HAS ALREADY FILED ON SUBJECT SEVERAL
TIMES AND HIS COMMENTS ARE APT TO BE DISMISSED BY PATHET LAO
AS ULTRA-REACTIONARY.

2. TO THIS END, WE WOULD PROPOSE TO PREPARE A CHRONOLOGY OF
EVENTS, INDICATING THE REPRESENTATIONS WE HAVE MADE AND THE
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DETAILED SUBSTANCE OF THE INFORMATION THE AMBASSADOR GAVE TO

PHOUMI. WE WOULD SEND THIS PACKAGE TO THE FOLLOWING EMBASSIES IN VIENTIANE: AUSTRALIAN, BRITISH, RUSSIAN, FRENCH, THAI, JAPANESE, FILIPINO, INDONESIAN AND INDIAN AND TO INDIAN AND POLISH DELEGATES TO THE ICC.

3. WE WOULD PROPOSE IN SOME CASES (E.G., SOVIETS) TO ASK SPECIFICALLY FOR INTERVENTION WITH PGNU TO ACCELERATE ACTION. WE WILL PROVIDE SAME PACKAGE TO JOINT CENTRAL COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT (JCCIA), WHICH ALREADY HAS COPIES OF AMBASSADOR'S LETTERS, AND URGE VIENTIANE SIDE TO RAISE QUESTION OF DEAN/SHARMAN AT EACH WEEKLY PLENARY SESSION UNTIL RESPONSE IS FORTHCOMING.

4. WE EXPECT PRESS TO BECOME AWARE OF THESE EFFORTS AND TO DIRECT QUESTIONS TO LPF REPRESENTATIVES AND SPOKESMEN.

5. WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD PLAY THIS GAMBIT OUT BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT ISSUES STATEMENT. WE DO NOT WISH TO DISSUADE THE DEANS FROM BECOMING MORE ACTIVE, BUT SUGGEST THAT IN VIEW OF OUR PRESENT EFFORTS, EXTENSIVE PRESS PLAY AT THIS TIME MAY BE MISINTERPRETED BY LPF AND POSSIBLY BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. MOST USEFUL IT SEEMS TO US MIGHT BE APPROACH BY DEANS TO LIBERAL SENATORS SEEKING PERSONAL LETTERS FROM THEM TO SENIOR LPF LEADERS.

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